

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-11 TRSE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00

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R 081513Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 692

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1791

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 02320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, ACP, AO, ZA, CG

SUBJECT: EC AID TO ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA

REF: STATE 55553

1. DCM CALLED ON PHILIPPE SOUBESTRE, COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S CHEF DE CABINET, ON MARCH 6 AND ADVISED HIM OF POINTS IN REFTEL. SOUBESTRE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND PROMISED TO INFORM BOTH CHEYSSON AND SOAMES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. SOUBESTRE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT EXPERTS GROUP WOULD TAKE ANY FIRM DECISIONS DURING MARCH 8 AND 9 MEETINGS. HE SAID COMMISSION WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD ACCELERATING PROGRAM FOR ZAMBIA. HE WAS AWARE OF NGUZA'S PROPOSAL TO RECONSTITUTE ZAIRIAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP, BUT NOTED COMMISSION (EDF) HAD NOT PARTICIPATED PREVIOUSLY. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT GROUP COULD BE USEFUL VEHICLE FOR DONORS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND DID NOT RULE OUT EDF ROLE IN SUCH AN EXERCISE.

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3. COMMISSION PROGRAM OF AID TO ANGOLA IS LARGELY ACADEMIC

AT THIS STAGE SINCE ANGOLA IS NOT A MEMBER OF LOME CONVENTION. HOWEVER, COMMISSION CAN OFFER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (FOOD AID) TO REFUGEES IN BOTH ZAIRE AND ANGOLA AND HE THOUGHT SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY TO UNHCR. HE SAID SEVERAL COMMISSIONERS FELT THAT A POLITICAL GESTURE" OF THIS KIND WAS DESIRABLE TO SHOW ANGOLAN REGIME THAT THERE WAS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUED EXCLUSIVE DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS.

4. DCM RESPONDED THAT POLITICAL GESTURE TOWARD ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA TO SHOW THAT THEIR FAITH IN THE WEST WAS NOT MISPLACED WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE. NOTING REPORT THAT UK REP AT LAST EC COUNCIL HAD CALLED FOR "EVENHANDED" EC AID POLICY TOWARD ALL THREE STATES INVOLVED, DCM STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE USED BY COMMISSION OR THE NINE AS AN EXCUSE TO SLOW DOWN WORK ON EXPANDED PROGRAM FOR ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA WHILE WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO DEVELOP IN ANGOLA.

5. SOUBESTRE SAID THAT, THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN NO ANGOLAN CONTACTS WITH COMMISSION YET ABOUT POTENTIAL ACCESSION TO LOME CONVENTION, HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE SUCH CONTACTS IN NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID EC WOULD PROBABLY BE GUIDED BY DESIRES OF OAU COUNTRIES. ASSUMING THEY FAVORED ANGOLAN ACCESSION, HE THOUGHT COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE WOULD BE RAPID AND FAVORABLE, THOUGH PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE INFLUENCED BY ANGOLAN BEHAVIOR VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS. AFTER ACCESSION TO LOME, COMMISSION WOULD CONSIDER PROJECT AID REQUESTS, OF WHICH REPAIR TO BENGUELA RAILWAY BRIDGES (IF STILL NEEDED AT THAT TIME) COULD BE OF HIGH PRIORITY. HOWEVER, UNTIL ANGOLA ACCEDED TO LOME, SUCH AID FROM EDF WAS HYPOTHETICAL. HINTON

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